

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06
AID-01 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3285

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 22520

DEPARTMENT FOR H, NEA AND AF

H PLEASE PASS OFFICES OF REPS BONKER AND TSONGAS; SEN.

CLARK'S OFFICE FOR VAN VOORST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL TSONGAS/BONKER: CONVERSATION WITH SADAT

REF: CAIRO 22384 (NOTAL)

1. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMARY OF HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION
DEC 19 REPORTED IN FULL IN REFTEL AMONG PRESIDENT SADAT,
REPS DON BONKER, PAUL TSONGAS, MR. BRUCE VAN VOORST (OF
SEN CLARK'S STAFF) AND AMBASSADOR EILTS. DISCUSSION WAS
DEVOTED IN NEAR ENTIRETY TO SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA --
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FROM PERSPECTIVE OF U.S. AND EGYPTIAN ROLES.

2. ETHIOPIAN INTENTIONS. CONGRESSMEN AND SADAT SHARED
CONCERN THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD ATTEMPT TO CUT ACROSS
NORTHERN SOMALIA TO HARGEISA AND BERBERA, ALTHOUGH REPS
NOTED MENGISTU AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA HAD
BOTH CLAIMED THIS WAS NOT TRUE. SADAT BELIEVED THAT THIS

WAS IN FACT MENGISTU'S AIM, ENCOURAGED BY SOVIETS, AND SIAD BARRE ALSO FEARED AS MUCH. CONGRESSMEN QUESTIONED MENGISTU'S MOTIVATIONS. SADAT DESCRIBED HIM AS BLOOD-THIRSTY AND PREPARED TO GO TO ANY LENGTH TO STAY IN POWER. HE WAS PLEASED CONGRESSMEN HAD SEEN HIS REIGN OF TERROR FOR THEMSELVES. SADAT BELIEVED THAT COMPROMISE ON OGADEN COULD COME ONLY WHEN MENGISTU PREPARED FOR IT. IN SADAT VIEW, TRIBAL CONFLICT WOULD PREVENT REASSERTION OF ETHIOPIAN NATIONALISM OVER MARXISM-LENINISM. SOVIETS, WHO ENCOURAGING INSTABILITY, WOULD PROFIT. MEANWHILE, U.S. PROVIDING ETHIOPIA ECONOMIC AID AND F-5'S ATTACKING INTO SOMALIA.

3. SOMALIA. SIAD BARRE, ACCORDING SADAT, IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED THAT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF HIS COUNTRY IS IN DANGER. "HE MUST BE MADE TO FEEL SECURE ON HIS OWN LAND." SADAT SAID SIAD WANTS AMERICAN HELP TO DEFEND HIS LAND. SOMALIA VERY VULNERABLE, SADAT SAID, AND ASKED U.S. "PLEASE FIND SOME WAY TO HELP." SIAD HAS ALSO REQUESTED TROOPS FROM EGYPT AND SUDAN TO DEFEND BERBERA. THEY HAVE AGREED, WITH SAUDI CONCURRENCE, TO SEND AN ARMORED BRIGADE EACH ALTHOUGH SUDAN'S MAY HAVE TO GO WITHOUT TANKS AND EGYPT'S IS NOT AVAILABLE YET. SADAT WILL SEND WARSHIP TO BERBERA, HOWEVER. THESE TROOPS WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEND NORTHERN SOMALIA FROM ETHIOPIA. HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO SIAD, SADAT SAID, THAT HE WOULD NOT INVOLVE

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HIMSELF IN OGADEN FIGHTING. SOMALIA MUST BE DEFENDED, HOWEVER, SO HE HAD SENT 30 MILLION DOLLARS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION. SADAT BELIEVED SIAD'S SURVIVAL WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GUARANTEE IF HARGEISA AND BERBERA FELL.

4. KENYA. THE CONGRESSMEN NOTED KENYAN CONCERNS OVER SIAD'S INTENTIONS AND SADAT WAS EMPHATIC IN SAYING SIAD HAD NO INTENTION OF MOVING AGAINST KENYA. HE WOULD "MAKE - THINGS AWKWARD" FOR SIAD IF HE DID. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SIAD HAD FINALLY TAKEN SADAT'S ADVICE TO EXPEL THE SOVIETS. IT NOW MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO SOVIETS, SADAT SAID, THAT THEY CAN NEVER RETURN TO SOMALIA. SIAD IS PREPARED TO ASSIST SADAT AND NUMAIRY IN STEMMING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

5. ERITREA. SADAT STATED THAT EGYPT'S POSITION ON ERITREA IS FIRM: IT MUST HAVE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. ITS INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL INSTABILITY BECAUSE IT WOULD BECOME MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE AND, IN ANY EVENT, "COULD BE CONTROLLED THROUGH SUDAN." SADAT SAID HE HAD SENT ERITREANS 200 TONS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES.

6. SUDAN. SADAT AGREED WITH CONGRESSMEN THAT SUDAN COULD BE FUNNEL OF ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. AID TO SUDAN WOULD ALSO HELP EGYPT WITH REGARD TO CHAD, TO WHICH HE HAS SENT 200 TONS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON U.S. C-130'S, AND NIGER. BOTH COUNTRIES "ARE UNDER ATTACK BY QADHAFI AND BOUMEDIENE, WHO ARE SOVIET AGENTS."

7. PDRY. SADAT MAINTAINED HE HAD LONG SOUGHT WAY TO ISOLATE PDRY DIPLOMATICALLY AND HAD USED ITS PARTICIPATION

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3286

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 22520

DEPARTMENT FOR H, NEA AND AF

H PLEASE PASS OFFICES OF REPS BONKER AND TSONGAS; SEN.

CLARK'S OFFICE FOR VAN VOORST

AT TRIPOLI REJECTIONIST SUMMIT AS PRETEXT TO BREAK RELATIONS. PDRY IS ABETTING SOVIET AIMS BUT BASE AT SOCOTRA WILL BE USELESS TO SOVIETS SINCE IT WILL BE UNDER RANGE OF EGYPTIAN WARSHIP'S GUNS FROM BERBERA.

8. SOVIETS. SADAT MADE CLEAR THAT SOVIETS, NOT ETHIOPIANS, WERE MAIN PROBLEM. BREZHNEV HAD TOLD SADAT

SOVIETS WILL CONTINUE THEIR POLICY IN AFRICA AND BACK
ETHIOPIA COMPLETELY. SADAT AGREED WITH CONGRESSMEN THAT
THEY COULD BE CONTAINED BY A CONCERT OF NATIONS
SURROUNDING ETHIOPIA. EGYPT, SUDAN AND SOMALIA WERE
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ALREADY COOPERATING TO THAT EFFECT. PEOPLES OF REGIONS
WOULD NEVER ACCEPT COMMUNIST REGIME, ACCORDING SADAT,
BUT DANGER IS THAT SOVIETS COULD INSTALL THEMSELVES BY
TERROR.

9. U.S. ROLE. LEITMOTIV OF CONVERSATION WAS U.S. ROLE.
SADAT SAID U.S. HAD NO POLICY IN HORN OR AFRICA IN
GENERAL. U.S. MUST TAKE REALISTIC VIEW OF SOVIET INTEN-
TIONS. IT MUST HELP EGYPT, SUDAN, SOMALIA AND AFRICANS
FIGHT BATTLE WHICH IS AS MUCH AMERICAN AS AFRICAN. SADAT
HAS DONE WHAT HE CAN BUT U.S. ARMS NECESSARY. IN
CONCERT WITH U.S., SADAT SAID, MUCH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED
OR PREVENTED. SOVIETS COULD BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE AND
THEIR AIM OF CONTROLLING AFRICA DEFEATED. BUT EGYPTIAN
RESOURCES LIMITED AND U.S. MUST HELP AFRICAN PEOPLE FIGHT
THE BATTLE.

10. NEITHER THIS TELEGRAM NOR REFTTEL CLEARED BY CODEL,
WHICH HAS DEPARTED CAIRO. EILTS

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